

25X1A2g

INFORMANT CONFIDENTIAL

CD NO.

COUNTRY Syria/Transjordan

25X1A2g

DATE DISTR. 5 Jan 1949

SUBJECT The Popular Party and the Recent
Rioting in Syria

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE 25X1A6a
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO

SUPPLEMENT TO 25X1A2g
REPORT NO.

25X1X6

1. On 1 December 1948 President Quwwatli of Syria told Adnan Atasi that Sami Kabbara had instigated the riots which were taking place at that time. Atasi claimed that Kabbara had nothing to do with the riots, but added that Kabbara was nevertheless still dissatisfied with the government, and that the government was responsible for the failures in Palestine and in Syria. (Comment. Kabbara is not actually a member of the Popular Party, as he considers himself above Parties). Atasi also stated that the Popular Party should be represented in the government. He stated that the Party would, however, be willing to participate in the government, provided that:
- New elections be held for members of the Chamber of Deputies.
 - The present near-dictatorial powers of the President be limited.
2. On 1 December 1948, approximately 500 students went to the house of Sami Kabbara and were told by Kabbara that their efforts in the rioting were not sufficient, and that they must kill President Quwwatli if they were to get rid of the present government. Kabbara stated that if he were to assume a position of power in the government he would bring the present Ministers to trial.
3. Source thinks that the Popular Party is working for King 'Abdullah of Transjordan. Kabbara has stated that the Popular Party would not participate in the government under any conditions, for if the Popular Party were to take over the government, they would be held responsible for the general situation and that as a result, when King 'Abdullah assumes control of Syria (which Kabbara felt would be in a matter of a few months), the Popular Party would be counted as an enemy of 'Abdullah instead of as his friend. Members of the Popular Party are making bombs and explosives in various parts of Damascus.

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Document No. 008

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Class. CHANGED TO: 35

DDA FORM: 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA FORM: 77-1765

Date: 12/05/96 BY: 008

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